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Prior to June 1951, the average monthly copper requirement for Chinese Communists was 2,000 tons for military use and 2,250 tons for civilian use. The average monthly supply as of July 1951 was 240 tons of domestic production and 350 tons imported. The Chinese Communists estimate that from 25,000 to 40,000 tons of copper and brass coins, utensils and other items owned by civilians are available within China for purchase as scrap.

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